

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
IN THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE AS
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY**

In re International PCT Application of:
B.C. CHEMICALS LTD. et al.
International Application No.: PCT/CA99/00150
International Filing Date: 19 February 1999 (19.02.99)
Priority Date: 20 February 1998 (20.02.98)
For: METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF
PHYTOSTEROLS FROM TALL OIL PITCH

Current Date: 24 March 2000

Authorized Officer/Examiner:
Rudolf, M.

COPY

ARTICLE 34 AMENDMENT

European Patent Office
Erhardtstrasse 27
D-80298 Munich

Dear Sirs:

The applicants acknowledge receipt of the Written Opinion dated 7 February 2000, and which invites a reply by 7 May 2000.

Under Sections V and VII of the Written Opinion, a number of points have been raised. Consequently, the applicants wish to make the following amendments to the description and claims:

In the Description

Page 3, immediately before the heading "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION" on line 21, insert the following new paragraph:

— Reference is also made to Chemical Abstracts, vol. 112, no. 20, 14 May 1990, Columbus, Ohio US; abstract no. 181758, MALIK, Lubomir et al: "Isolation of phytosterols from tall - oil rosin", XP002104877 & CS 256 092 A (Czech). Malik et al. disclose a process for extracting phytosterols which includes the use of four distillation stages. Product flow is split into parallel distillation paths in a first distillation stage then, following further distillation in each parallel path, is partially recombined prior to a final distillation stage. To achieve high purity phytosterols, the output from the final distillation stage is subjected to two stages of crystallization. Relatively large amounts of solvent are required to perform the crystallization stages. —.